(d) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. ONGC is still acquiring seismic data in the area, and data are in various stages of evaluation.

(c) and (d) ONGC has already drilled a well in Purnea, which has gone dry. Future drilling in this area would depend upon the outcome of the seismic data being acquired and its evaluation.

Modernisation of Power Stations in Haryana

6147. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power stations/sub-stations in Haryana at present;

(b) the total power generated by each station/sub-station during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the power generation capacity of these power stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) In Haryana, the total number of power stations and sub-stations are 3 and 25 (220 KV and above) respectively. The year-wise electricity generation in each of the power stations in Haryana during the last three years are given below

(Figures in MU)

Power Station	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. Faridabad TPS	783.04	799.340	649.247
2. Panipat TPS	2408.177	2266.502	2753.631
3. WYC Hydro Electric Project	229.436	234.306	267.754
Total as a whole in Haryana	3420.653	3300.148	3670.632

(c) and (d) Panipat Units I to IV of 110 MW each are covered under R&M programme for increasing the PLF which in turn, amounts to augmentation of generation capability of these units.

[English]

Hydro Power Projects

6148 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of hydro-electric power projects has been slow :

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have mooted any scheme to speed up the pace of hydro-electric power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Progress of some of the Hydroelectric power projects has been adversely affected due to fund constraints, delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement problems, law and order problems and geological problems.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken to speed up the pace of hydroelectric projects:-

(i) Close monitoring of various activities of the projects at the level of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Ministry of Power (MOP) is being done. CEA and MOP officials are regularly holding progress review meetings with the project authorities, major equipment suppliers and manufacturers to overcome constraint and identify corrective measures.

(ii) The Net Budgetary Support (NBS) for hydel projects being executed by the Central Sector Corporations has been substantially increased from Rs. 533 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 866 crores in 1997-98. In addition, Rs. 617 crores has been assured in the Budget of 1997-98 for early completion of Central sector hydel projects.

(iii) The Government also announced in January 1995 a package of incentives for hydro projects commissioned on or after 1.1.1997 to encourage greater private sector participation in hydel projects.

(iv) A National Policy for rehabilitation of persons affected by the developmental projects including power projects is being formulated by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(v) The Ministry of Power had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.K. Sambamurti on 26th August, 1996 to suggest development of hydro projects including involvement of the Private Sector. The Committee submitted its report on 27th March, 1997. The recommendations made by the Committee would be incorporated while formulating a National Policy on hydel development.

Indian Fishermen Detained by Sri Lankan Army

6149. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian Fishermen have been detained at Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankan Army and Navy during the last few months;

(b) the steps taken to rescue them; and